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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Joseph E. Coury, et al.

Serial No. 09/691,713

Confirmation No. 4980

Filed: 18 October 2000

Title: Personal Gas Supply Delivery System

Examiner: Patel, Mital

Art Unit 3761

Docket: 1161

REPLY BRIEF

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Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following reply brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated 31 July 2003. The reply brief is submitted in triplicate.

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, and 20 are stated to be separately argued. The Examiner states that all of the claims stand or fall together because the appellant's brief does not include a statement that the claims do not stand or fall together and present separate reasons therefore.

The Board's attention is drawn to page 3 of the appeal brief setting out that the claims are separately argued. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are subject to a novelty rejection. Thus, any difference in the claim language of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 renders each claim separate from one another and from the stated novelty rejection.

Claims 8 and 18 depend from different independent claims and are separately argued at page 4 of the appeal brief. Claims 9 and 10 are separately argued at page 5 of the appeal brief. Claim 11 is separately argued at page 5 of the appeal brief. Claim 14 is separately argued at page 5 of the appeal brief. Claims 19 and 20 are separately argued at page 5 of the appeal brief.

The appellant does not accept the arguments of the Examiner in the Examiner's

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Answer and reserves the right to argue such matters and to apply different arguments.

C O N C L U S I O N S

It is requested that the Board reverse all of the outstanding rejections in the above-entitled application. Should the Board have any questions, such may be directed to the number given below.

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States postal service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 25 September 2003 and that my signature is also as of this date.

Respectfully submitted,


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ORAL HEARING REQUEST

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Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following reply brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated 31 July 2003. An oral hearing is requested in this matter. The fee for the oral hearing is enclosed.

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States postal service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 25 September 2003 and that my signature is also as of this date.

Respectfully submitted,


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